

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /096 W
-----022440 050416Z /11

R 040717Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9238
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
US MISSION GENEVA 235

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0517

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: PORG SREF ICRC VM CH TW
SUBJECT: CHINESE RESIDENTS IN SRV SEEK TO LEAVE

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 461 (NOTAL); (B) VIENTIANE 503 (NOTAL)

1. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IS ATTEMPTING TO MOVE
APPROXIMATELY 2,000 CHINESE REFUGEES FROM HO CHI MINH CITY
TO TAIWAN. AN ICRC OFFICIAL TOLD US MAY 3, HOWEVER, THAT
ROC GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH SECURITY WERE
BLOCKING THE PROGRAM, DESPITE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE ROC
COMMISSION FOR OVERSEAS CHINESE AND THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ACCEPT THE REFUGEES. THE OFFICIAL
SAID THAT IN SOME INSTANCES THE CHINESE AWAITING TRANSIT
TO TAIWAN ALREADY HAD EXIT VISAS AND ENTRY PERMITS TO
TAIWAN, BUT FINAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING HELD
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UP.

2. THE SAME ICRC OFFICIAL SAID THAT "DEMONSTRATIONS"
AND "CLASHES" BETWEEN CHINESE RESIDENTS OF CHO LON
AND VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES (REFS A AND B) HAD MADE
THE EARLY DEPARTURE OF THE CHINESE AN URGENT CONCERN.
THE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT TWO FLIGHTS OF CHINESE WERE

SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR TAIWAN IN MAY AND ONE IN JUNE
BUT THAT SPECIFIC DATES HAD NOT BEEN SET. (MAXIMUM
FLIGHT CAPACITY IS 152 PERSONS PER FLIGHT.)

3. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT PEKING FOR THE FIRST TIME
WAS SHOWING SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN THE CHINESE RESIDENTS
OF CHOLON, BUT WITHOUT A CONSULATE IN HO CHI MIHN CITY
THE PRC WAS HAMPERED IN ARRANGING FOR THEIR DEPARTURE
TO MAINLAND CHINA. HE SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT, HE
DOUBTED THAT PEKING WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE MANY. HE
NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRC HAD GIVEN APPROXIMATELY
3,000 PASSPORTS TO CHINESE IN HANOI BUT THAT IN MOST
INSTANCES THESE PASSPORTS DID NOT PERMIT THE BEARER
TO ENTER CHINA.

4. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT IN 1977, THE ICRC OFFICE IN
HANOI HAD RECEIVED HUNDREDS OF MIMEOGRAPHED REQUEST
FORMS FROM CHINESE IN HO CHI MINH CITY TO BE "REPATRIATED"
TO TAIWAN. HE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD INFORMED
THE ICRC OFFICE AND SPREAD THE WORD IN HO CHI MINH CITY
THAT CONTACT BETWEEN PERSONS IN HO CHI MINH CITY AND THE
HANOI BASED ICRC WAS NOT TO BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH
THE MAIL.

ROBERTS

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